

DYNAMITE #2

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THE Shadow



THE Shadow®

Previously in the Shadow!* Secrets of the Shadow's past were revealed as the Dark Avenger met Master Magician Harry Houdini! The Shadow infiltrated a sanctum of an esoteric society of murderous magicians who were hellbent on escaping the ultimate trap--death itself! In order to thwart their plans, all of the Shadow's skills were tested as he evaded twisted traps and solved spellbinding puzzles. Now, the sect have again turned their maleficent focus once again towards The Shadow!

*The events of this story take place after The Shadow #0!

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MACHPELAH CEMETERY.

IT HAS BEEN TEN YEARS SINCE I LOST YOU, OLD FRIEND.

BUT NEVER HAS THE PAIN OF THAT LOSS BEEN MORE PROFOUND THAN IT IS NOW.

WHEN YOU BUILT THIS MONUMENT YOU KNEW IT WOULD STAND THE TEST OF TIME.

I AM SURE YOU ASSUMED THE *SOCIETY OF UNITED MAGICIANS*--A GROUP YOU HELPED TO FOUND--WOULD LAST AS WELL.

BUT THIS BUSINESS WITH THE *LAST ILLUSION*...

...WHAT THEY SEEK...

...AND WHAT THEY ARE WILLING TO DO...

...HAS PROVEN THAT THE MEN WHO WERE ONCE YOUR COLLEAGUES...

...ARE NOW *MONSTERS*.

THEY WOULD TEAR DOWN
ALL OF *CIVILIZATION* IF
IT SUITED THEIR DESIRES.

AND SO *JUSTICE*
MUST BE SERVED.

BUT WHERE WAS
JUSTICE WHEN YOU
WERE TAKEN?

THERE WAS
NONE TO BE HAD.

I TRACKED THE
MAN WHO STRUCK
THE *KILLING BLOW*.

BUT THERE WAS
NO *CRIME* THERE.

THERE WAS A *PAIN*
WITHIN THAT MAN
THAT TOLD ME ALL I
NEEDED TO KNOW.

HE MEANT YOU NO
MALICE AND HAS
LIVED WITH HIS *GUILT*
ALL THESE YEARS.

HE HAS LIVED WITH THE
KNOWLEDGE THAT HE TOOK A
GREAT MAN FROM THE WORLD.

BESS IS SAFE.

YOU'LL HAVE TO
WAIT FOR HER A
LITTLE LONGER.

AS LONG AS THIS
NEW SOCIETY EXISTS,
I WILL ALWAYS HAVE
EYES ON HER.

I HAVE MANY *AGENTS*,
AND THEY KEEP THE
VIGIL WHEN I CANNOT.

THE SOCIETY HAS
SCATTERED. THEY
HIDE LIKE THE
VERMIN THEY ARE.

BUT THE DARKNESS
WILL NOT PROTECT
THEM FROM *ME*.

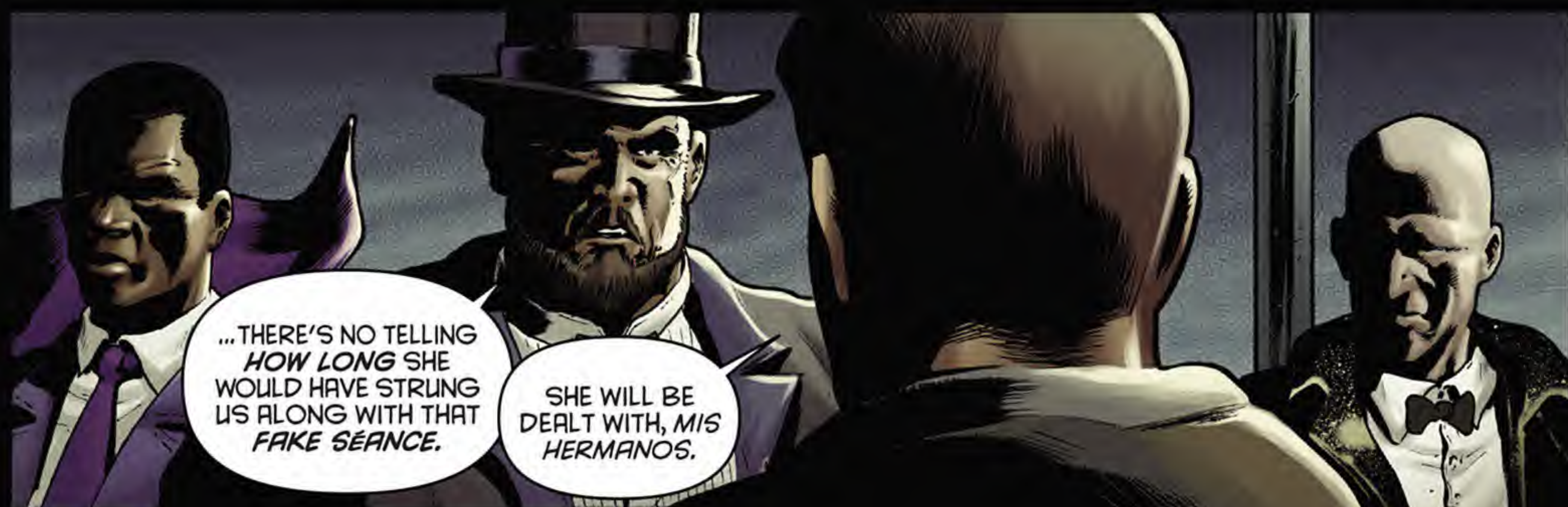
THEY SHALL TRAIT YOUR
LEGACY NO LONGER.



THEIR DAYS
ARE *NUMBERED*.

THE CHARLATAN
MADAME
SETIENNE MUST
BE DEALT WITH.

HAD
THE SHADOW
NOT SHOWN
UP TO ROUST
US ALL...



...THERE'S NO TELLING
HOW LONG SHE
WOULD HAVE STRUNG
US ALONG WITH THAT
FAKE SÉANCE.

SHE WILL BE
DEALT WITH, *MIS*
HERMANOS.



I FEEL *PERSONALLY*
RESPONSIBLE AS IT
WAS I WHO CONTRACTED
HER SERVICES.

THE NAME
MADAME SETIENNE
SHALL NEVER AGAIN
BE UTTERED AFTER
THIS WEEKEND.

NO ONE
BLAMES *YOU*,
MIGUEL.

THE SEARCH FOR
THE LAST ILLUSION IS
ALL-CONSUMING.

WE SHALL WALK
MANY PATHS
IN OUR QUEST...

...EVEN THOUGH
MANY OF THOSE
SHALL LEAD TO
DEAD-ENDS.

LET US
HOPE NOT.



ETHAN SANDS!

WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO ACCEPT OUR INVITATION.

YOU SHALL CALL ME THE **SANDMAN**.

ETHAN SANDS IS THE NAME ONLY MY **FAMILY** USES.

AND WHILE WE MAY BE **BRETHREN** WITHIN THE SOCIETY, THAT DOES NOT MAKE US FAMILY.



TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND.

THIS **SHADOW** IS NOTHING MORE THAN A **NUISANCE** THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH LONG AGO.

LIKE PETER PAN'S SHADOW, HE WILL BE SNAPPED OFF AND HUNG OUT THE WINDOW.



PAH!

HE SPEAKS OF **CHILDREN'S BOOKS** AND **FAIRY TALES**.



H-HOW?

HOW IS IT THAT YOU PLAN TO TAKE CARE OF THE SHADOW WHEN **SO MANY** BEFORE YOU HAVE **FAILED**?



DO NOT MUDDY
MY REPUTATION WITH
THE *INCOMPETENCE*
OF *OTHERS*.



THESE CRATES
ARE TO BE TENDED
TO WITH THE
UTMOST CARE.

AM I
UNDERSTOOD?



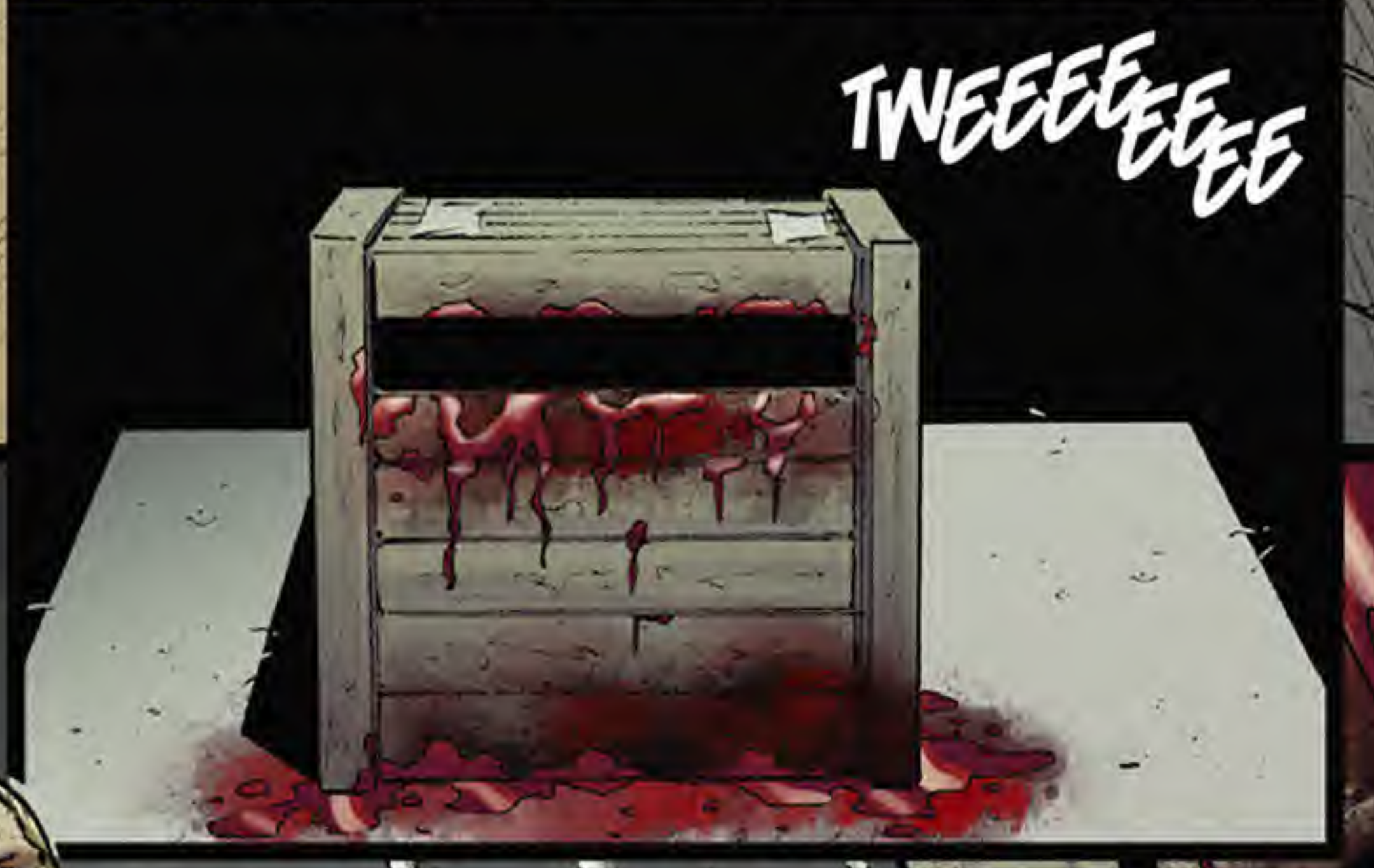
I AM
PLACING MY
TRUST IN
YOU, FRITZ.

THESE
OTHERS--



--WELL...

THEY'LL
LEARN FOR
THEMSELVES,
YES?





NEW YORK CITY.
THE COBALT CLUB.



EDWARD!

A *PLEASURE*
TO SEE YOU.

THANK YOU
FOR MEETING
ME HERE.

I TOOK
THE *LIBERTY*
OF MOVING
FIRST.



ALEISTER,
LAMONT.

MY
FATHER WAS
EDWARD.

HE WAS
A GREAT MAN,
A HERO TO ME
AND A FRIEND
ALWAYS.

I STRIVE
TO LIVE UP TO
THE NAME.

BUT UNTIL SUCH
A TIME THAT I DO, I
SHALL BE CALLED
ALEISTER.



TO WHAT
DO I OWE THE
PLEASURE
OF
THIS MEETING?

YOU SPENT
A GREAT DEAL
OF MONEY TO
BRING ME HERE
FOR A GAME
OF CHESS.

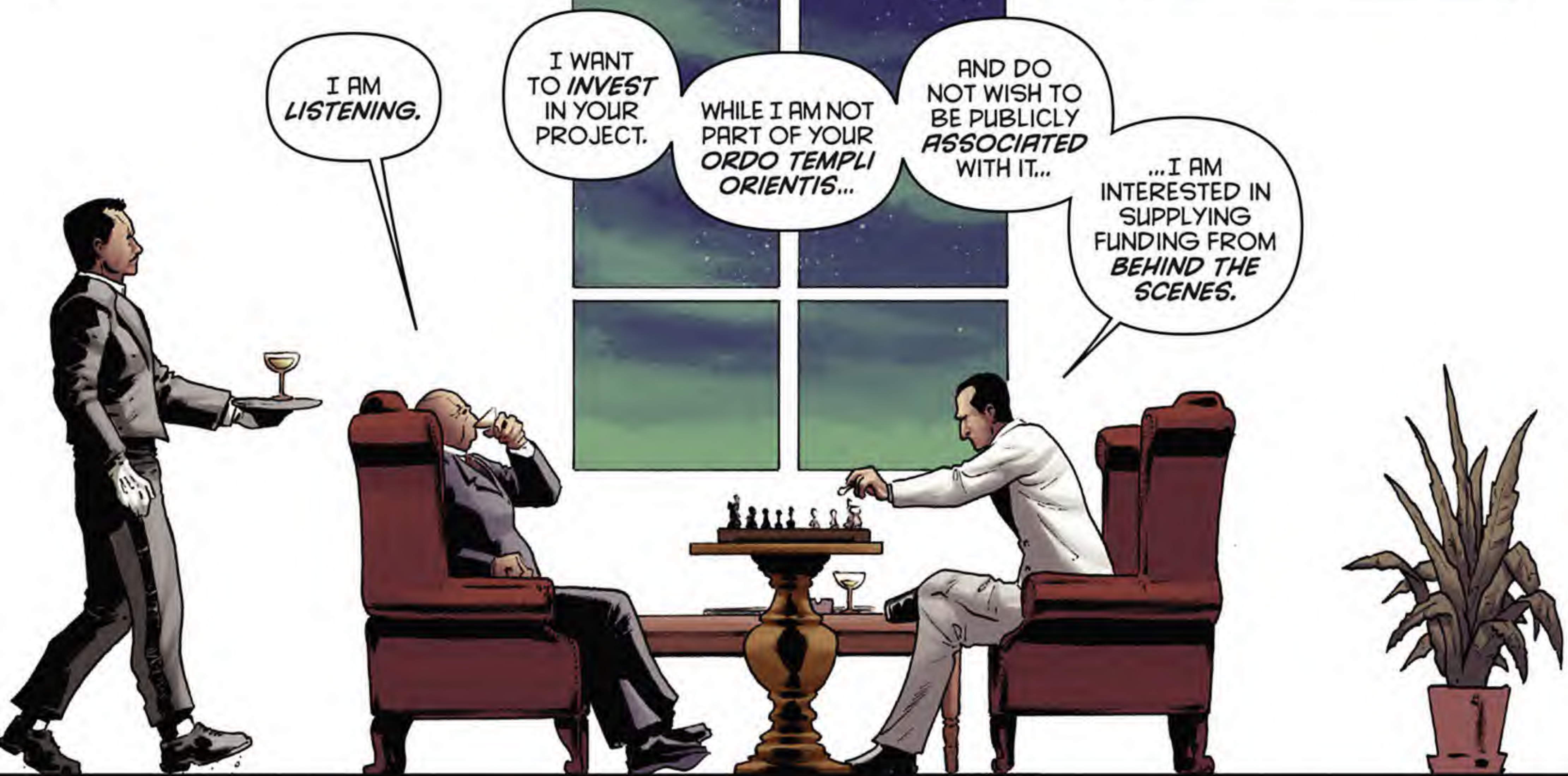
YOUR
DRINK,
SIR.



PUT THEM
ON MY TAB,
CHARLES.

IN THAT
CASE, KEEP
THEM COMING,
MY GOOD
MAN!

EVER
WILLING, EH,
ALEISTER?





**HEDGEMONT
HOTEL.**








YOU KNOW
OF THE SOCIETY
OF UNITED
MAGICIANS.


YOU
KNOW OF THEIR
MURDEROUS
SCHEMES.

AND YOU
WILL REVEAL
ALL TO--*THE*
SHADOW!



DO NOT THINK
YOU CAN *LIE* TO
ME, CROWLEY?

THE SHADOW
KNOWS WHAT EVIL
LURKS IN THE
HEART OF MEN.




THEY'LL
KILL ME.

I HAVE
TURNED AWAY
FROM THEIR
ORDER.

BUT
THE OATHS I
SWORE HOLD
TRUE.

IF I
REVEAL THEIR
SECRETS--

MY
WRATH SHOULD
FRIGHTEN YOU
MORE THAN A
BROKEN
PROMISE.



WHAT
IS THE LAST
ILLUSION?

WHY ARE THESE
CHARLATANS
WILLING TO KILL
TO ACQUIRE IT?

A-ALL
RIGHT.

I'LL
TELL YOU.

I'LL
TELL YOU... BUT
THEN--*PLEASE*--
JUST LEAVE ME
ALONE!

I... I
DON'T KNOW
ANYTHING!

I CAN'T
HELP YOU!

"THE LAST ILLUSION WAS THE WORK OF ONE MAN..."

"HIS EARLIEST DAYS ARE A MYSTERY..."

"...VARDELL GOSCELIN... A 14th CENTURY SCHOLAR, SCIENTIST, AND MAGICIAN."

"...BUT THERE ARE THOSE WHO BELIEVE HE WAS RELATED BY BLOOD TO THE DEVIL HIMSELF."

"THAT DISTINCTION HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN AFFORDED ONLY TO PERHAPS THE GREATEST OF MAGES--MERLIN."

"AND IF GOSCELIN WAS THE DEVIL'S KIN, HE STILL SHOWED SIGNS OF GOD'S MERCY."

"HIS REPUTATION GREW DURING A TIME OF GREAT DESPERATION."

"A PLAGUE GRIPPED THE LAND AND SHOWED NO SIGNS OF SLOWING."

"THE POWER TO HEAL, THOUGH, APPEARED HIM FOR ONLY SO LONG."

"HIS APPETITE FOR FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE GREW...UNTIL HE WAS STARVING!"

"HE SOUGHT DEEPER RESERVOIRS OF MAGIC..."

"...AND HIS POWERS SWELLED."

"AND EVEN HIS DEEDS WERE SEEN AS HEROIC..."

"...EVEN WHEN IT SEEMED HE WAS USING HIS GIFTS FOR GOOD..."

"...HIS EVERY ACTION WAS INTENDED TO STRENGTHEN HIS ESOTERIC WISDOM."

"I DOUBT HE EVEN REALIZED WHEN HE SOMETIMES HELPED OTHERS."



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"I DOUBT HE EVEN REALIZED WHEN HE SOMETIMES HELPED OTHERS."

"OTHERS SAW HIS BURGEONING TALENTS..."

"...AND THEY DEMANDED THAT HE SHARE HIS SECRETS OR BE THRICE-DAMNED."

"BUT GOSCELIN HAD GROWN GREEDY AND COVETOUS..."

"...AND HE WOULD NOT BE BULLIED."

"HE MADE SHORT WORK OF ANYONE WHO STOOD AGAINST HIM."

"BUT EVEN THE DEATH OF HIS ENEMIES WAS NOT ASSURANCE ENOUGH."

"HE CRAFTED A SPELL IN HIS FINAL DAYS...A SPELL TO--LITERALLY--END ALL SPELLS."

"IT HID THE NATURE OF MAGIC...BURIED IT DEEP SO THAT NO MAN COULD WORK TRUE MIRACLES EVER AGAIN."





THIS IS
THE KNOWLEDGE
THE SOCIETY OF
UNITED MAGICIANS
DESIRES.

THEY ARE
TRYING TO
TRANSCEND
DEATH.

THEY BELIEVE
THAT IF THEY CAN
FIND GOSCELIN
IN THE SPIRIT
WORLD...

...THEY CAN
COMPEL HIM
TO SHARE HIS
SECRETS.



SO... THAT'S
WHY THEY
ACCOSED
HOUDINI'S
WIDOW.

THEY'VE MADE
OTHER OFFERS TO
THOSE WHO ARE
REACHING THEIR
LIFE'S *END*.

THEY'VE ASKED THE
AGING TO BE THEIR
AMBASSADORS IN
THE *HEREAFTER*.

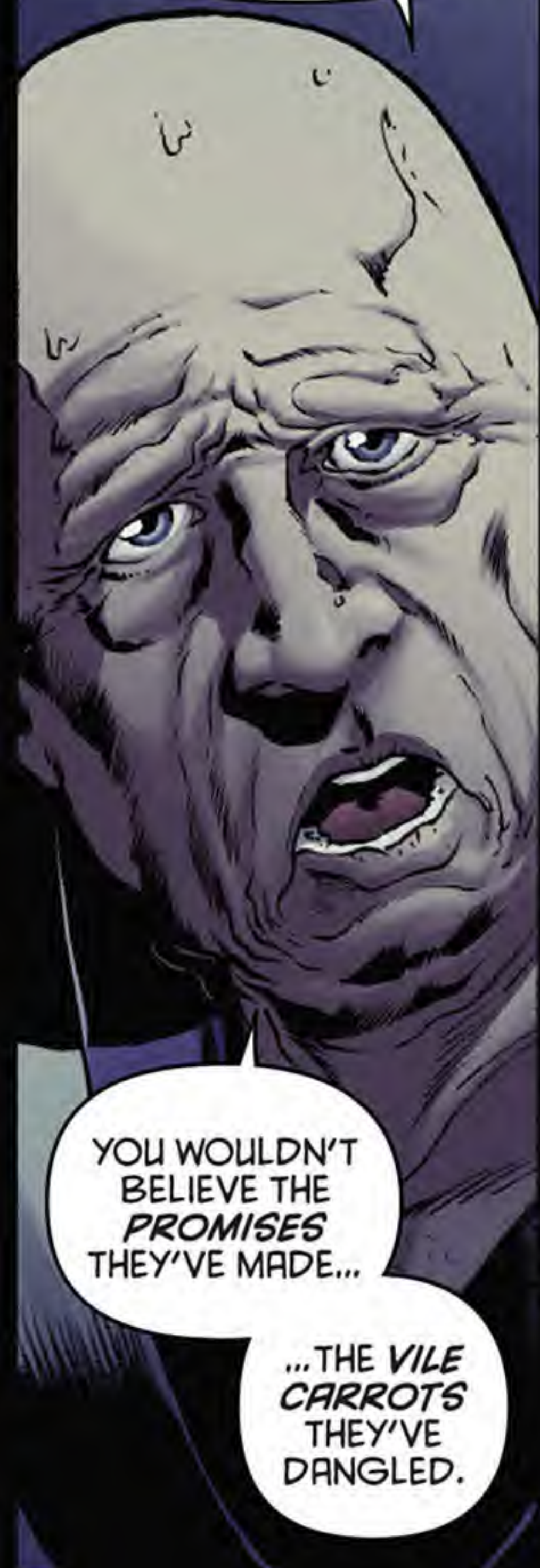


THEY BELIEVED
HOUDINI UNCOVERED
THE *TRUTH* OF THE
LAST ILLUSION...

...THAT HIS
SPIRIT *DID* VISIT
HIS GRIEVING
WIFE...

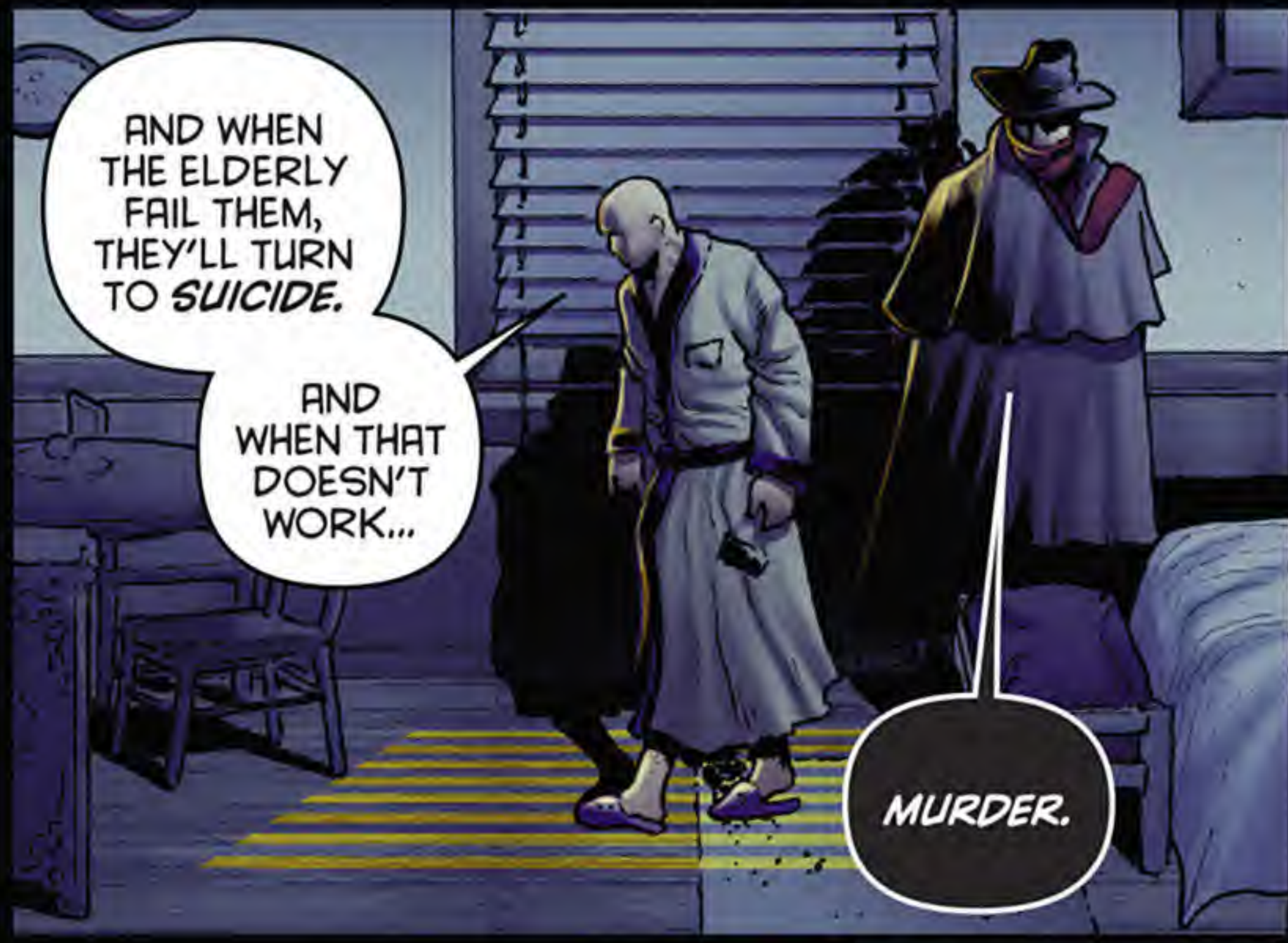


...AND THEY
HOPED TO FORCE
HER TO DIVULGE
WHAT HE HAD
TOLD HER.



YOU WOULDN'T
BELIEVE THE
PROMISES
THEY'VE MADE...

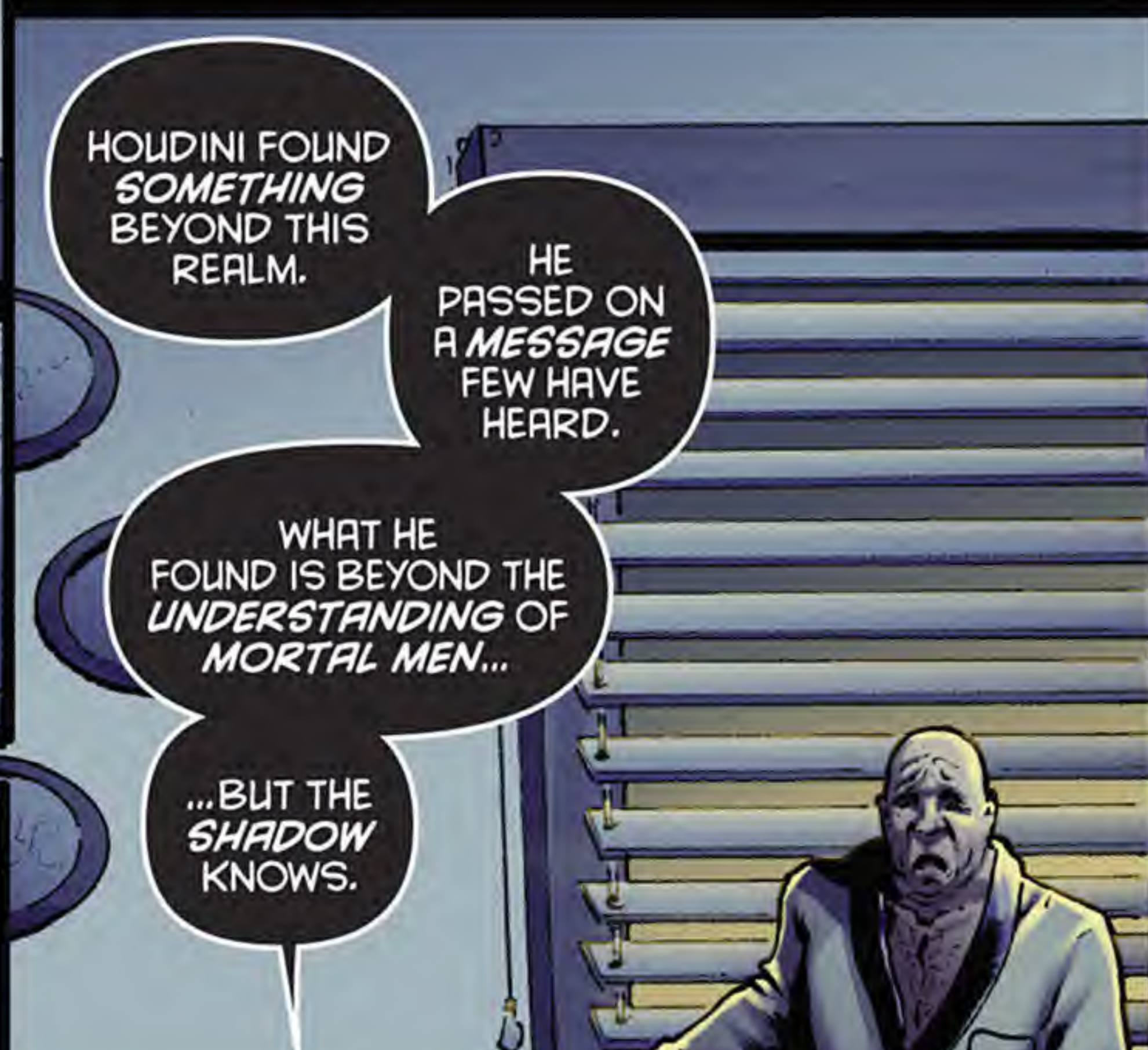
...THE *VILE*
CARROTS
THEY'VE
DANGLED.



AND WHEN THE ELDERLY FAIL THEM, THEY'LL TURN TO *SUICIDE*.

AND WHEN THAT DOESN'T WORK...

MURDER.



HOUDINI FOUND *SOMETHING* BEYOND THIS REALM.

HE PASSED ON A *MESSAGE* FEW HAVE HEARD.

WHAT HE FOUND IS BEYOND THE *UNDERSTANDING* OF MORTAL MEN...

...BUT THE *SHADOW* KNOWS.

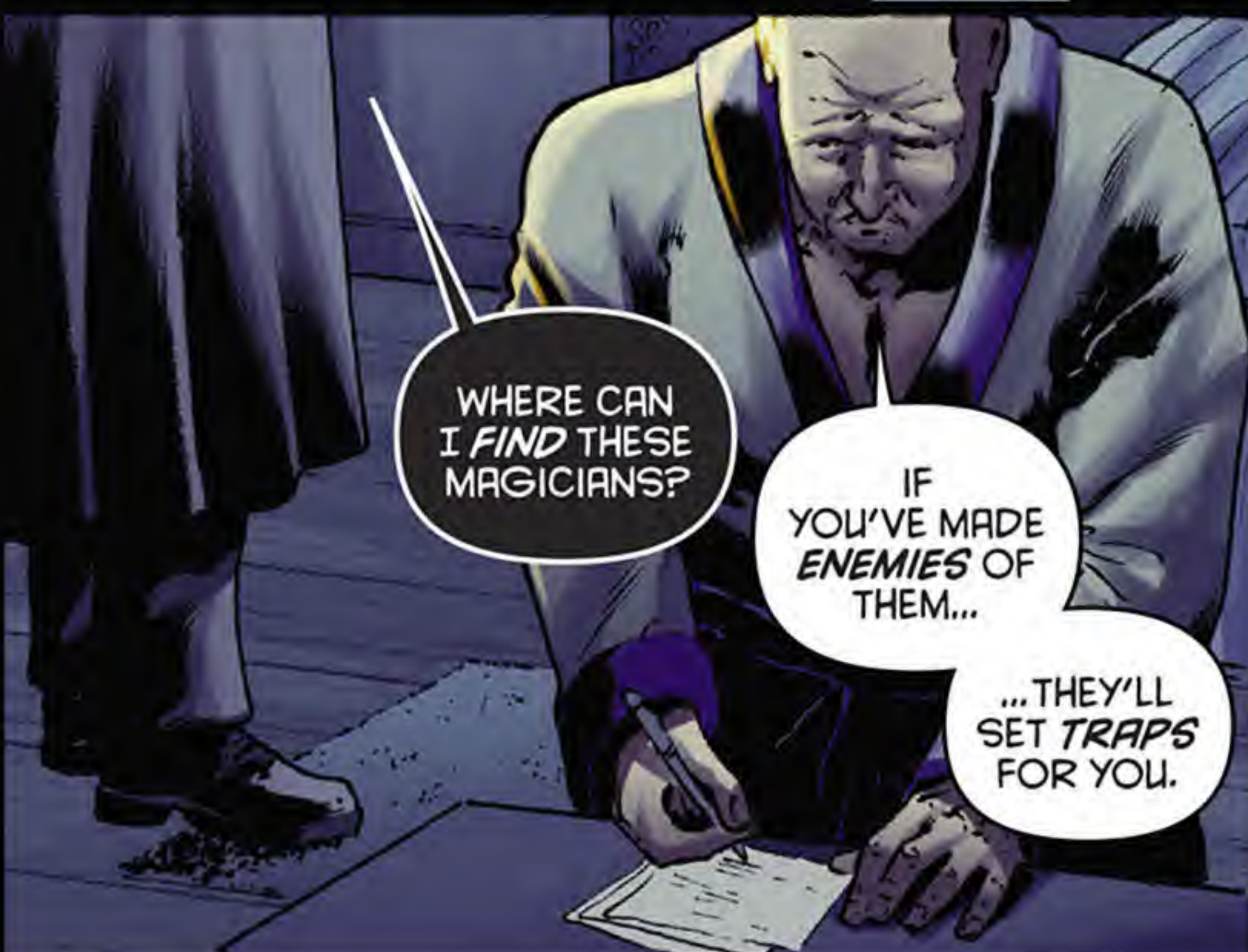


YOU MUST UNDERSTAND.

ALL THEIR LIVES, THEY'VE CHASED *MIRACLES*.

THEY'RE *DESPERATE* NOW.

DESPERATE TO PROVE THAT THE *WONDERS* THEY BELIEVE IN ARE MORE THAN LIES.



WHERE CAN I *FIND* THESE MAGICIANS?

IF YOU'VE MADE *ENEMIES* OF THEM...

...THEY'LL SET *TRAPS* FOR YOU.



BUT TAKE THIS ADDRESS AND BE GONE FROM MY SIGHT!

YOUR TIME IN AMERICA IS DONE, CROWLEY.

GO...BEFORE THE SOCIETY REALIZES YOU WERE HERE.

AND TAKE THIS *KNOWLEDGE* WITH YOU.



1408 HILL AVENUE.



IT SEEMS
DOUBTFUL I'LL
FIND WHAT I
SEEK HERE.





PERHAPS
CROWLEY WAS
MISLEADING ME.



SENDING ME
ON A WILD GOOSE
CHASE TO *HOBBLE*
MY EFFORTS.



ALTHOUGH...

...THESE LOOK
PROMISING.



BLOOD.



THE
SMELL...

...NOT
DISSIMILAR
TO...

...WET
MONKEY?

RRR
RR



WRAH
WRAH
WRAH

TO BE CONTINUED!



NEXT ISSUE:

A cabal of vile magicians have recruited an assassin to eliminate their enemies. At the top of the list--the Shadow! Meanwhile, more secrets of the Last Illusion are revealed.

DYNAMITE IN THE NEWS

WRITER WARREN ELLIS DEBUTS THE ALL-NEW JAMES BOND COMIC BOOK SERIES WITH ARTIST JASON MASTERS

Dynamite proudly announces that fan-favorite author Warren Ellis will be writing the James Bond ongoing comic book series. James Bond is scheduled for release in November 2015, featuring interior artwork by Jason Masters (Batman Incorporated). In the series, Bond returns to London after a mission of vengeance in Helsinki, to take up the workload of a fallen 00 Section agent... but something evil is moving through the back streets, and sinister plans are being laid for Bond in Berlin.

The news of the high-profile author's involvement follows Dynamite's announcement of their partnership with Ian Fleming Publications Ltd. (IFPL), the Fleming family company that owns and administers the literary copyright of Ian Fleming's published works. Launching their James Bond line with a writer of exemplary skill and reputation has been a priority for Dynamite, and Warren Ellis' stewardship will guarantee all the hallmarks of high-octane action and international intrigue that exemplify the franchise.

"Ian Fleming's James Bond is an icon, and it's a delight to tell visual narratives with the original, brutal, damaged Bond of the books," says Warren Ellis.

Great-nephew of Ian Fleming, Diggory Laycock says, "We were thrilled when Warren agreed to write the first story in this exciting new chapter of literary James Bond. Warren's style is gritty, dark, and unique, and we can't wait to see James Bond embroiled in an adventure of his creation."

"Warren Ellis is one of the most brilliant writers of the 21st century, not just in comics but across all media," says Nick Barrucci, CEO and Publisher of Dynamite. "We met with Warren and everyone at IFPL, and Warren's passion for the novels showed. He really is the perfect writer for Bond, and I can't express how excited we are that he is tackling the ongoing series. This will be James Bond unlike anything you've ever seen before, true to Ian Fleming's source material yet bursting all preconceptions of what a Bond story should be."

HIGHLIGHTED ITEMS | SEPTEMBER

